



SFM Report

May 2007

CAL FIRE State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

We are off to a good transition here at the OSFM as Chief Ruben Grijalva steps out of the assignment of SFM. His leadership as the State Fire Marshal provided this office with a renewed enthusiasm and morale that has lifted our vision higher than ever before. His selfless commitment and caring approach will always be an inspiration for me and I believe each of us in the fire prevention community owe him a debt of gratitude for the leadership he has provided. I look forward to continuing to support him in his role as Chief and Director for CAL FIRE and implementing an even bigger vision.

My warmest thanks to all of you who sent the many messages of support, congratulations and encouragement as I was appointed State Fire Marshal.

I was truly overwhelmed and will work tirelessly to earn the confidence you have expressed.

The Final Action hearing for the code adoption process will begin May 21 in Rochester, New York and I will see many of you there. The vote on the Residential Sprinkler proposal has a shot at success, so each and every person attending and voting will make a difference. Following that will be a set of proposals addressing the Height and Area issues that CA and others have been working on. The Study Group I have been co-chairing with Dave Collins, American Institute of Architects (AIA) will be providing a progress report on the group's work for the membership at Rochester.

The short version is that the Study Group is in the middle of addressing how best to affect building safety and we are targeting the August 20th submittal deadline for the 07/08 cycle as our goal. I have advised the Study Group that I am committed to this process until August. If our goals are not met by then, I will look for other avenues to make needed changes. The important message for the discussion at Rochester is to let the membership know we are serious about these issues and feel that the Balanced Fire Protection concepts are important for building safety for both California and the country.

CDF Makes CAL FIRE Official

To reflect the expanding mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the Department now uses the moniker CAL FIRE. Director Ruben Grijalva kicked off Wildfire Awareness Week on the steps of the State Capitol by unveiling the new patch for the public and the media. Surrounded by fire engines with CAL FIRE boldly printed on the side, Chief Grijalva called the crowd's attention to a fly-over of a helicopter and 3 fix-wing firefighting aircraft, all displaying the CAL FIRE markings.



Unveiling the CAL FIRE logo (L-R) Legislative Chief Dave Titus, Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, Unit Chief Bill Holmes, Director, Ruben Grijalva.

Fire Prevention

\$\$\$ For Prevention Projects

The last week in March and the month of April brought some good news to California Communities at Risk from Wildland Fire. Robert Chew (Cal Fire's Office of the State Fire Marshal), Deborah Spurgeon (Cal Fire's Resource Management Proposition 40 Office), and Jay Lopez (Los Angeles County Fire Department) along with our federal cooperator assisted The Fire Safe Council's Grants Clearing house in reviewing 214 grant applications. These applications ranged from CWPP (Community Wildfire Protections Plans) development to hazardous fuels reduction and homeowner education programs in the Wildland Urban Interface. Projects submitted in Amador and Calaveras Counties were some of the most innovative project proposals. These projects were aimed at assisting the elderly and disabled in meeting their legal obligations under PRC 4291 which pertains to hazardous fuels clearance around structures. The funds for these Wildland Urban Interface Grants will come from the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service. Forty-four projects were funded for a total of \$4.2 million this year. Last year 284 grant applications were submitted of which 103 projects were funded for a total of \$7.4 million.

The Western States Fire Managers informed Cal Fire on April 11, 2007 that funding for the 2007 Western States Fire Managers Wildland Urban Interface Grants were increased from \$11.8 million to just over \$17 million. California was able to fund 3 additional grant projects with this increase in funding. The following projects were funded using a competitive process:

County	Project	Amount Requested
Trinity	Trinity County Community Chipper Program	\$56,350
Napa	Napa Firewise Phase IV	\$200,000
Lassen	Archery Children's Section of Susanville Fuel Break	\$149,500
Mendocino	Ridge Road Fuel Break and Education Project	\$116,748
Napa	Napa County Goats	\$92,000
Marin	Mill Valley Community Fuel Break	\$45,484
Riverside	Greater Idyllwild Fuel Reduction	\$100,000
	Total Funded Amount	\$760,082

Public Hearings Soon Regarding Fire Hazard Mapping

If you have SRA (State Responsibility Area) in or near your jurisdiction, you may become aware of upcoming hearings at which the public can comment on the fire

hazard zoning. CAL FIRE is now completing the draft stage of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. The final draft version maps will be released this month and hearings will be held this summer in 56 of 58 counties. (Sutter and San Francisco do not include SRA). Information will be available at www.fire.ca.gov, Click on "Living and Building in the WUI".

Fireworks Training

The OSFM Fire Engineering Division is offering a class on "Public Display Fireworks Training" on **May 30**, 2007 at Angel Stadium of Anaheim, 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, Anaheim, CA 92806. The class is 9:00 - 4:00. The training is free, first come first served, space is limited and you must pre-register to attend. For more information, contact Marge Yarbrough at (951) 277-8796 or email marge.yarbrough@fire.ca.gov to pre-register. Remember, walk-ins will not be allowed to attend, so sign up soon.

State Fire Training

Classes on the New Codes

The International Code Committee (ICC) is working with the OSFM and other state agencies to deliver training for California's transition to the new ICC codes. The first series of training for state agencies starts the week of May 14. We will bring you more information in future SFM reports as well as on the SFM web site. These codes represent a major change and anyone who enforces codes as part of their job should watch out for the training schedule and sign up as soon as possible.

Changes in the Fire Marshal Certification Training

There are changes ahead for fire marshal certification training. State Fire Training is establishing a work group to rewrite the certification training standards for the fire marshal certification track. Curricula review and rewrite will follow for courses in the fire marshal series. We will provide you with a progress report after the work group meets.

Visit <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

For more information about CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal
